REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-12 are pending in the application. In response to the Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims define patentable subject matter.

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) because the Examiner contends that the drawings do not show the "wall made of other material" recited in claim 11. However, Applicant respectfully submits that the objection is improper since Fig. 8 shows the claimed wall (P). Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to remove the objection to the drawings.

Claim 10 is objected to because the Examiner contends that there is no antecedent basis for the phrase "the other portion". By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 9 and 10 to improve clarity. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to remove the objection to claim 10.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Inaba et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,633,098; hereafter "Inaba"). Claims 4-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inaba in view of Bourqui et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,756,710; hereafter "Bourqui"). Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inaba in view of Oohashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,809,437; hereafter "Oohasi"). Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inaba in view of Heim (U.S. Patent No. 6,787,950). Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inaba. Applicant respectfully traverses the prior art rejections.

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to recite:

an insulating resin having adhesive properties is applied to an entire surface of said coil end portions leaving an open space between an outer circumferential surface of said coil end portions and an inner circumferential surface of said case, as well as a corner portion formed by intersection of an outer circumferential surface of a bottom of said coil end portions and an end face in axial direction of said stator iron core is also filled with said insulating resin having adhesive properties at a portion adjacent to a stator supporting portion provided at the bottom of said coil end portions.[1]

The claimed invention differs the cited references in that no element is disposed at the portion fitting a stator and a bracket (case), where the stator and the bracket (case) are adjacent to each other. As shown in Fig. 1 of Inaba the stator coil 11 is covered with a heat-conductive resin 40 and a part of the heat-conductive resin 40 closely contacts an inner surface of a bracket (case) 70 supporting the stator 12 (see column 5, lines 32-67 of Inaba). Similarly, as shown in Fig. 1 of Bourqui, winding heads 3 at the ends of the stator are impregnated with a composition 6 which contacts the outer sheath (case) 4 of the motor. In other words, Inaba and Bourqui do not provide an open space between an outer circumferential surface of the coil end portions and an inner circumferential surface of the case, as claimed.

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[1] See, for example, page 12, line 12 through page 13, line 6 and Fig. 1 of the present application.

On the other hand, the claimed invention is characterized in that reliability of a support structure is improved by applying an insulating resin to the fitting portion or the portion adjacent to the supporting portion, that is, to the bottom of the coil end portions.

With regard to dependent claim 5, the Examiner asserts that "Bourqui et al. disclose the electric machine wherein the insulating resin having adhesive property is continued from one end to the other end in axial direction within at least n ($n \geq 3$) points of slots in said stator iron core (because resin is filled around the stator core)". However, Bourqui only shows a cross-section of the stator, and does not disclose the claimed feature of the insulating resin having adhesive properties is continued from one end to the other end in axial direction within at least n ($n \geqq 3$) points of slots in the stator iron core

With regard to dependent claim 6, the Examiner asserts that "Bourqui et al. also disclose the electric machine wherein said n points of slots are located uniformly all round the cylindrical stator iron core". However, Bourqui only shows a cross-section of the stator, and does not disclose the claimed feature that the n points of slots are located uniformly all around the cylindrical stator iron core.

With regard to dependent claim 7, the Examiner asserts that "Bourqui et al. also disclose the electric machine wherein said stator winding is aligned at the coil end portions". However, Bourqui fails to disclose that the stator winding is aligned at the coil end portions. In fact, Fig. 2 of Bourqui shows the windings are not aligned in a cross-sectional view of a slot. On the other hand, as shown in Fig. 6 of the present application, the stator winding is aligned at the coil end portions.

With regard to dependent claim 8, the Examiner asserts that "Bourqui et al. disclose the electric machine wherein the end portion of said stator iron core is filled with a larger amount of insulating resin radially than said coil end portions (the stator core is thicker than the layer away from the core)". However, nowhere does Bourqui disclose that "the end portion of said stator iron core is filled with a larger amount of insulating resin".

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-12 should be allowable because the cited references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest all of the features of the claims.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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